



Office of Health and Medical Research eNewsletter

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Quotes

'The Bligh government's investment in research is not just an investment in jobs, it is not just an investment in health and it is not just an investment in a strong skills base; it is an investment in our future. The research answers we discover today will save lives tomorrow' [Hon. Paul Lucas, Deputy Premier and Minister for Health \(11/01/10\)](#).

'Research is to see what everybody else has seen and to think what nobody else has thought' [Albert Szent-Gyorgyi quotes \(Hungarian Biochemist, 1937 Nobel Prize for Medicine, 1893-1986\)](#).

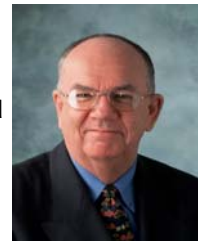
Senior Director's message – Professor Robin Mortimer

The past few months have certainly proved to be an exciting time for research in Queensland. Some recent highlights include:

- appointment of the new head of the [UQ Centre for Clinical Research](#), Professor Murray Mitchell
- move of Professor John Prins to the [Mater Medical Research Institute](#), as CEO and Institute Director
- first sod turned at the new QIMR [Smart State Medical Research Centre](#) construction site
- three Queensland-based researchers, Professor Michael Good (Griffith University), Professor Martyn Goulding (University of Queensland) and Professor John Mattick (University of Queensland) were awarded prestigious [NHMRC Australia fellowships](#).

The Queensland Government is in the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of British-Columbia, Canada, to create opportunities for collaborations and partnerships between academic, research, commercial and government entities.

This milestone will help cement the existing strong relationship and could significantly benefit the growth of Queensland's health and medical research sector. This alliance continues on from the Queensland-Washington State MOU renewed in May 2009.



In November 2009, the Office of Health and Medical Research (OHMR) launched the Bridging the Gap series. These breakfast events aim to give a forum to link researchers, clinicians, industry partners and various government stakeholders in a bid to improve research collaboration across Queensland. Three events have been held covering cancer research, health precincts and BioBanking. These events have been extremely fruitful and identified numerous common challenges and solutions. OHMR's focus post event will be to build on these networks to encourage ongoing discussion. I encourage you to attend the event should you receive an invitation.

All of these dynamic developments will assist to better shape and serve the programs and services within our health and medical research sector.

Funding programs

Clinical Academic Fellowships (CAF)

In round one, 43 applications were received. Applications are being reviewed with six fellowships to be announced in March 2010. Each fellowship will be a joint position between Queensland Health and a Queensland university and will increase the presence of full-time clinical academics in Queensland's health care facilities.

Round two is expected to open in June 2010.

Senior Clinical Research Fellowships (SCRF)

SCRF recipients, Professors Peter Sly, David Paterson and Thomas Marwick, were presented with certificates by Her Excellency, the Governor of Queensland at the University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research in February 2010.



From Left to Right: Professor David Paterson, Professor Peter Sly, Dr Brian Haluska (on behalf of Professor Thomas Marwick), Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO Governor of Queensland, Dr Tony O'Connell (Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Healthcare Improvement), Mr Jason Currie (Director, OHMR) and Professor Robin Mortimer (Senior Director, OHMR).

Image by: Jeremy Patten, The University of Queensland

Round two will close on 1 March 2010.

Aim:	One of Australia's most generous fellowships which aims to attract and retain international leaders in their field to Queensland.
Closing date:	1 March 2010.
Eligibility:	Successful applicants will be at the forefront of research, development and innovation, and will be expected to bring new clinical and intellectual resources that will further stimulate Queensland's research potential.
Amount:	Up to AUD 850,000 per annum over five years.
Web:	http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ohmr/html/rpu/sen_clin_res_fel.asp .

Health Research Fellowships (HRF)

The first round obtained 113 applications. Interviews will be conducted mid March 2010. The fellowships give salary support to Queensland Health practicing clinicians and health professionals to assist entry into a research career or to continue conducting research.

The second round is expected to open in July 2010.

External funding opportunities

NHMRC translating research into practice (TRIP) fellowship

Aim:	To give support, mentoring and training for clinicians researching approaches to applying evidence to improve care, and develop the range of skills needed for leadership in research translation.
Closing date:	5 March 2010 (extended from 1 March 2010).
Eligibility:	Early-to-mid career clinicians who have completed professional training in any health discipline, including but not limited to, medical practitioners, nurses, allied health professionals, paramedics, medical librarians, health economists, health managers and policy makers.
Amount:	The award includes a package for 0.5 full-time equivalent for two years.
Web:	http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/career/index.htm#d .

Pfizer Australia research grants

Aim:	To support Australia's up-and-coming medical researchers to find new ways to prevent, treat and cure human disease. Grants are awarded for one year and assist researchers to establish a basis for further research funding applications.
Closing date:	April – May 2010 (check web address below for details).
Eligibility:	Successful applications will be from the areas of paediatric endocrinology, cancer, neuroscience and cardiovascular lipid research.
Amount:	Up to \$1.5 million in grants.
Web:	http://www.apecgrants.com.au/ .

Research ethics and governance

The research ethics and governance unit (REGU) welcomes Heather Hawkins. Heather was previously a research governance officer at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. She has a background in research management, having worked for seven years in the UK National Health Service and government research systems at a time of considerable reform. Heather's role includes the implementation of the central coordination service.

After a series of consultations with ethics chairs and managers, directors of research, researchers and trial coordinators across Queensland Health, the service will commence on 1 July 2010.

The REGU is negotiating with Queensland Health service providers for a standard schedule of fees for services used in the conduct of clinical trials. The fee structure will assist clinicians and sponsors preparing trial budgets and reduce variability across sites.

Intellectual property (IP) and commercialisation

A revised *IP ownership assessment form* and new procedures for protecting Queensland Health copyright materials, incorporating application of [government information licensing framework](#) (GILF) licences will be published shortly. Destroy superseded documents and be aware that printed copies are uncontrolled.

[IP website pages](#) now include:

- *What is Intellectual Property?*
- *Copying of non-Queensland Health documents (supersedes Copying Test Forms and other Documents: Can I do this without Infringing Copyright?)*
- *Invention Disclosure Form.*

The IP newsletter's autumn edition will be published [online](#) in early March 2010.

Advice on IP can be obtained by telephoning (07) 3234 1479 or via email IP_Officer@health.qld.gov.au.

News

Ministerial releases

- Treasurer puts body on the line ... all in the name of science >>
- New science and research hub just around the corner >>
- Heat's on for anti-cancer vegetables >>
- Premier pays tribute to US champion of Queensland's biotechnology sector >>
- Queensland to host lucrative nutraceuticals conference >>
- Queensland biomedical company opens new clinic in the Big Apple >>
- \$205 million science and technology hub for QUT >>
- Inala to host centre for excellence in indigenous health >>

Spotlight...The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation

Showcasing a Queensland hospital foundation.

Our health is something many of us take for granted. The ability to walk without pain, to play with the children without struggling for breath, or even to live without stigma are things we consider normal. But for 77 per cent of Australians, normal life is living with a chronic illness. The foundation supports world leading research to find cures and save lives. The hospital is renowned for work in heart and lung transplantation, orthopaedics, critical care, mental health, rehabilitation, cardiology, general and thoracic medicine, as well as addressing the national health priority areas for chronic disease.

The foundation constantly strives to increase and strengthen its capabilities by delivering:

- new grants' framework – supporting current world class research while fostering the next generation, plus \$50,000 dedicated annually to practical nursing research
- stronger communications – rebranding and refocussing communications both internally and externally
- governance – reviewing investments and implementing strategic planning
- accountability – stronger internal financial monitoring and organisational processes.

For information about research supported by the foundation visit www.tpchfoundation.org.au or phone (07) 3139 6625.

Spotlight...Cairns Base Hospital clinical trials unit

Showcasing a success story involving human research ethics and governance.

Cairns Base Hospital's clinical trials unit led by Professor John McBride recently secured a coup based on the unit's involvement in a seasonal influenza trial with more than 700 residents participating for the major pharmaceutical company, CSL Ltd. Approximately, \$250,000 has been injected into the far north's economy following the vaccine trial at the hospital in preparation for its release on the US market. The trial tested the efficacy, safety and tolerability of CSL's vaccine upon healthy adults.

The hospital's clinical trial unit was created 10 years ago and consists of six staff. It is a multi disciplinary research provider that coordinates all clinical trials across the Cairns Base Hospital. The unit's clinical research coordinator, Sue Richmond, highlighted that they are a 'resource for (internal and external) researchers at the hospital'. This study has demonstrated the enthusiasm of local residents to participate in high class medical research and has had a large flow on of effects for the unit, including increased interest in trial participation and more media coverage and awareness.

For more information phone the hospital's clinical trials unit on (07) 4050 8085.

Spotlight...Invest Queensland

Highlighting an inter-governmental collaboration with OHMR.

Invest Queensland (IQ), the Queensland Government's foreign investment attraction agency, is escalating the resources dedicated to supporting firms and research groups move to Queensland. IQ works with firms and project proponents on a confidential basis to assess Queensland as a location, make suitable introductions, identify necessary infrastructure and make logistical arrangements. Where advantageous to the State, additional support is also provided to projects of strategic significance.

For more information visit www.investqueensland.com.au or phone (07) 3224 2644.

Research tip

Access to health and medical journals

Visit <http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/library/home.htm> for a complete list of e-journals available to Queensland Health employees via library access.

Alternatively, visit <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/> regarding the Queensland state libraries membership and available database information.

For information on entitlements to other Queensland libraries, contact the university in which individual qualifications were obtained for a library membership.

A new initiative of the National Library of Australia is access to e-journals via <http://www.nla.gov.au/>. A list of the journals freely available online visit <http://www.nla.gov.au/app/eresources/list/free> and licenced resources available with your library card via <http://www.nla.gov.au/app/eresources/list/licenced>.

Website links to Queensland universities

The University of Queensland	http://www.library.uq.edu.au/
Queensland University of Technology	http://www.library.qut.edu.au/
Griffith University	http://www.griffith.edu.au/library
Australian Catholic University	http://www.acu.edu.au/library/
University of Southern Queensland	http://libcat.usq.edu.au/
James Cook University	http://cms.jcu.edu.au/libcomp/index.htm
Central Queensland University	http://content.cqu.edu.au/FCWViewer/view.do?site=410

Events

Featured events

The inaugural [Innovate and Educate Conference](#) is being held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 11–12 March 2010. The conference is organised by Clinical Education and Training Queensland, in collaboration with the education and health sectors in Australia and New Zealand. Attendance at the conference will include clinicians and educators from health services, universities and the vocational education and training sector, students, employers, health service administrators, government policy makers as well as professional bodies from across the medical, nursing and midwifery, allied health and oral health professions. The OHMR is a trade exhibit partner at this conference.

The Queensland [Healthcare Improvement Symposium](#) is being held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 11 May 2010. It aims to showcase healthcare improvement initiatives, recognise exemplar initiatives with awards and facilitate healthcare improvement across Queensland Health. There are seven symposium themes. The Office of Health and Medical Research is co-sponsor of this event.

2010 Calendar of events

March	April	May
2 Research Informing Policy in Primary Health Care	9-10 Challenges in Cardiology	11 Healthcare Improvement Symposium and Awards
11 AusBiotech Breakfast	19 Human Research Ethics Committee Meeting	17 Human Research Ethics Committee Meeting
11-12 ClinEDQ Innovate & Education Conference	30 Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education Conference	21 Mater Medical Research Institute StemCell Symposium 2010
15 Human Research Ethics Committee Meeting		27-28 Advancing Key Initiatives in Cancer Care Forum
20-24 2010 Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting		
28-31 New Directions in Leukaemia Research Conference		
28-31 Impact of Pain		

Contact us

To help improve our services your feedback is needed on recognition of successes, new ideas for delivering improvements in health and medical research, events for the OHMR website or contributing to the eNewsletter, visit <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ohmr/html/feedback.asp>, phone (07) 3405 6121 or e-mail ohmr@health.qld.gov.au.

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